

(fine fellow that he is!), and one or two of the  
 tougher  
 Judges. All who held any humbler rank have  
 "been mustered out of employment on account of their  
 advanced  
 years. Even a friend of mine has been  
 superannuated  
 from being President of the Society of  
 Antiquaries, which  
 seems the *ne plus ultra* of superannuation.  
 There is great  
 comfort in being old. A man feels responsible  
 for his own  
 contemporaries, and critical of those among  
 them who get  
 ; more than their deserts; but he has no feeling  
 beyond a mild  
 amusement as connected with personal matters  
 in a younger  
 \* generation—except a genuine pleasure in  
 seeing young  
 merit rewarded. One troubles oneself little  
 about the ac-  
 tors, but retains one's interest in the cause. I  
 look up to  
 you as a reader of Milton's prose. I never  
 have taken to  
 ! sixteenth or seventeenth century prose; but I  
 may some  
 day; for I never read Chaucer till three years  
 ago, and I  
 have since read him twice through aloud, and  
 he had spoiled  
 11 me for any other poetry. *As for classical*  
*history, have you*  
*ever tried beginning Grote's Greece at the*  
*35th chapter,*  
*the Ionic revolt; leaving out all that precedes*  
*it, much of*  
 which is hopelessly unreadable? The interest  
 of what then  
 ; follows, through volume after volume, is  
 unequalled in all  
 the world.

Hints of the wide range of Roosevelt's  
 reading are con-  
 veyed in these two letters:

WHITE HOUSE,  
 April 10,

i  
 1907.

Do you know Negris' \* History of Julian the  
 Apostate'?

> Julian's career has always been interesting  
to me, and I was particularly interested in seeing it  
treated by an Italian of Negrin's type. By the way, while I  
\* knew that one of your diplomatists, Eennell Eodd, was a  
poet, I did not realize that he was a historian until the  
i other day Mrs.  
/ Roosevelt presented me with a couple of  
volumes of his  
| on those curious Frankish principalities  
which existed in  
I Greece for a couple of centuries as the  
sequence of the  
J Fourth Crusade. It has always been to me  
an interesting